MARVEL
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YOUNG AVENGERS®

HEINBERG
CHEUNG
DELL

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YOUNG AVENGERS

SIDEKICKS
PART THREE

Allan Heinberg & Jim Cheung
WRITER - CO-CREATORS - PENCILER

John Dell
INKER

Justin Ponsor
COLORS

VC's Cory Petit
LETTERS

James Taveras
PRODUCTION

Stephanie Moore and Molly Lazer
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Andy Schmidt
ASSOC. EDITOR

Tom Brevoort
EDITOR

Joe Quesada
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dan Buckley
PUBLISHER

When four super-powered teenagers appear dressed as the would-be sidekicks of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and the Hulk, DAILY BUGLE publisher J. Jonah Jameson assigns super hero consultant Jessica Jones (the former super heroine JEWEL) the task of finding these elusive heroes and getting their story.

That night, the so-called Young Avengers--PATRIOT, IRON LAD, ASGARDIAN, and HULKLING--botch the rescue of two hundred wedding guests from a hostage crisis at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Young Avengers become hostages themselves until the bride's younger sister, KATE, stabs the lead gunman with one of Patriot's throwing stars, saving the day and mortifying Patriot.

Later that night, outside Avengers Mansion, Patriot, Asgardian, and Hulkling confront Kate and CASSIE LANG (the NON-super-powered daughter of the now-deceased Avenger ANT-MAN) when the girls attempt to retrieve Cassie's dad's Ant-Man costume and size-changing gear. When Patriot refuses to allow Cassie inside the Mansion, she loses her temper, surprising everyone--including herself--by growing to giant-size.

Meanwhile, inside the Mansion, Iron Lad reveals to Captain America, Iron Man, and Jessica Jones that he is, in fact, a 30th Century teenager who has journeyed back in time to escape the fact that he is destined to become KANG THE CONQUEROR, the time-traveling warrior who is one of the Avengers' oldest and deadliest adversaries.

Iron Lad further reveals that, in his efforts to fend off Kang's inevitable campaign to return him to the 30th Century, he has downloaded the programming and data files of the VISION, the android Avenger who was destroyed in their recent battle with the Scarlet Witch, into the CPU of his armor...

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THE VISION ?!

BUT THE VISION WAS *DESTROYED*. HOW DID YOU--?

I DOWNLOADED THE VISION'S OPERATING SYSTEM AND DATA FILES INTO MY ARMOR.

SO, HE'S... *ALIVE?*

WHOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?

AN EARTHQUAKE?

ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE?

IT'S *HIM*.

IT'S *KANG*...

OH, MY GOD...

IS THAT...?

CASSIE!!!

IS SHE OKAY?

DOES SHE LOOK OKAY TO *YOU?*

CASSIE, HONEY? WAKE UP.

WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU--YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA--
WHAT HAPPENED TO CASSIE?
SHE GOT *UPSET*. SHE STARTED *GROWING*. AND THEN SHE KIND OF...*PASSED OUT*.
WHAT UPSET HER?
UM...*WE* DID.
SHE WANTED US TO LET HER INTO THE MANSION SO SHE COULD GET HER DAD'S ANT-MAN COSTUME--
CASSIE? IT'S *CAP*. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CAP...? WHY ARE YOU SO...SMALL?
I'M NOT, CASS. YOU *GREW*.
I DID? *HOW?*
I DON'T KNOW. THINK YOU CAN SHRINK BACK DOWN FOR ME?
GOD, I *HOPE* SO.
SURE YOU CAN, CASS. JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND...THINK *SMALL*.
ATTAGIRL.
MY *CLOTHES*--
C'MON, LET'S GET YOU INSIDE.
OKAY, I'M GONNA TAKE OFF THEN.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

IRON MAN'S TAKING CASSIE UP TO HER DAD'S ROOM.

SO, EXCEPT FOR *CASSIE*, IS THIS *ALL* OF YOU?

OR ARE THERE ANY *MORE* YOUNG AVENGERS RUNNING AROUND OUT THERE?

NO, SIR. THIS IS ALL OF US.

PATRIOT.

ASGARDIAN.

IT'S AN *HONOR*, SIR--

PLEASE...

AND THIS IS *HULKLING*.

AHEM.

AND *THIS* IS THE YOUNG LADY WHO SAVED OUR LIVES AT THE CATHEDRAL.

BUT YOU'RE *NOT* A YOUNG AVENGER?

NO, SIR. THE BOYS HAVE A STRICT, SEXIST, *NO-SUPERGIRLS-ALLOWED* POLICY.

THAT'S NOT *TRUE*.

THEN WHY IS *CASSIE* NOT A YOUNG AVENGER?

BECAUSE SHE WASN'T PART OF THE *AVENGERS FAILSAFE PROGRAM*.

THERE'S AN AVENGERS FAILSAFE PROGRAM?

NOT THAT I'M *AWARE* OF.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? KANG?

NO, SIR.

THE *VISION*.

ONCE I DOWNLOADED THE DATA FROM THE VISION'S HARD DRIVE, I WENT LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTACT-- AND HOPEFULLY REASSEMBLE--THE AVENGERS.

BUT INSTEAD I FOUND THE AVENGERS'S *FAILSAFE PROGRAM.*

Altman, Teddy
Bradley, Elijah
Bronleewe, Ma hew
Casey, Todd
Chung, Richard
Dorsey, Anissa
Kaplan, William
Moore, Perry
Parrish, Robin

A PROGRAM DESIGNED SO THAT, IF ANYTHING SHOULD *HAPPEN* TO THE AVENGERS--

--IF THEY WERE *DESTROYED* OR *DISBANDED*--

--THEN THE VISION WOULD BE ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT LOCATIONS OF THE NEXT WAVE OF... WELL...YOUNG AVENGERS.

HOW COULD WE NOT HAVE *KNOWN* ABOUT THIS?

AND WHAT CONSTITUTES THE NEXT WAVE?

WA
OR
ID
MT
SD
MN
WI

WE'RE NOT SURE, BUT IT SEEMS AS THOUGH EACH OF US HAS SOME SIGNIFICANT TIE TO THE AVENGERS *OR* TO AVENGERS HISTORY.

WHAT *KIND* OF TIE?

WE WERE HOPING YOU COULD TELL *US.*

MAYBE IF WE TOLD YOU OUR *REAL* NAMES--

NO! THEY'RE CALLED *SECRET IDENTITIES* FOR A *REASON.*

PATRIOT, HE'S *CAPTAIN AMERICA.*

YEAH, BUT *SHE'S* A CIVILIAN.

A CIVILIAN WHO SAVED YOUR *LIFE.*

WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LET THAT *GO?*

WHEN YOU FINALLY *ADMIT* IT.

IF I DO, WILL YOU *LEAVE?*

PROBABLY NOT, NO.

ACTUALLY, MS. BISHOP--

YOU KNOW MY *NAME?*

IT WAS ALL OVER THE *NEWS.* HOW YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY DISARMED THE LEAD GUNMAN--

IT *WAS?*

IT *WAS?*

AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU-- BUT IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND GIVING US A MOMENT ALONE?

I'LL BE OUTSIDE IF YOU NEED ME.

OH, AND PATRIOT?

YOU'RE GONNA BE HEARING THIS *A LOT,* BUT LET ME BE THE *FIRST* TO SAY IT:

"WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE *HIM?*"

I'M *BILLY KAPLAN.* MY PARENTS ARE JEFF AND REBECCA. HE'S A CARDIOLOGIST. SHE'S A PSYCHOLOGIST. TWO LITTLE BROTHERS, BOTH OBNOXIOUS...

DOES THIS *MEAN* ANYTHING TO YOU GUYS?

NO, I'M SORRY.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR *POWERS,* BILLY?

YOU GENERATE *ELECTRICITY? LIGHTNING?*

UM... YEAH.

KINDA.

WHAT ABOUT *YOU,* HULKLING?

MY REAL NAME'S *TEDDY ALTMAN.*

I'VE GOT *SUPER-STRENGTH...*

ANY... *ANGER* ISSUES?

I DON'T HULK-OUT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

AT LEAST NOT ANY MORE THAN *MOST* SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLDS.

HOW'D YOU *GET* YOUR POWERS? RADIATION OR--?

I DON'T KNOW. *NONE* OF US KNOWS.

EXCEPT *PATRIOT.*

PATRIOT?

WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN AND TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, SON?

FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT YOUR *SON.* SO YOU CAN BREATHE A BIG SIGH OF RELIEF.

AND SECOND OF ALL, *WHY* SHOULD WE TELL YOU OUR *SECRETS* WHEN THE *ONLY* REASON YOU CAME HERE WAS TO SHUT US DOWN?

THAT *IS* WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO.

ISN'T IT?

PATRIOT, IF *I'M* IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU--

DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE *NOT.*

THEN WHY ARE YOU WEARING *BUCKY'S--*

WHY ARE YOU WEARING *THAT* UNIFORM?

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE *FIRST* CAPTAIN AMERICA...

THE *REAL* CAPTAIN AMERICA...

ISAIAH BRADLEY...

MY GRANDFATHER.

THE *BLACK* CAPTAIN AMERICA.

SO, CASS...

YOUR...GROWTH SPURT? HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED *BEFORE?*

NO.

WHICH IS WEIRD BECAUSE I'VE BEEN STEALING PYM PARTICLES FROM MY DAD FOR, LIKE, *YEARS*--

WHAT?

I KNOW, I *KNOW.* BUT NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...

...TILL NOW.

IF I CAN JUST FIND MY DAD'S *HELMET*...

IT'S NOT HERE.

WHEN I DISBANDED THE TEAM, I PUT IT IN STORAGE WITH THE REST OF THE TECH.

CAN I GET IT *BACK*?

PLEASE, MR. STARK--?

I'M SORRY.

BUT--

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU *WASTE* YOUR LIFE--

YOU THINK MY DAD WASTED *HIS* LIFE?

COME ON, CASS. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.

THEN WHY CAN'T I BE ANT-GIRL?

BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO *YOUNG*. IT'S TOO *DANGEROUS*. LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *DAD*.

THAT WAS AN *ACCIDENT*.

NO, IT WASN'T.

YOUR FATHER WAS *MURDERED*, CASSIE.

AND IT WAS MY FAULT.

I FOUNDED THE AVENGERS BECAUSE--AT THE TIME--IT SEEMED LIKE THE WORLD *NEEDED* US...

"...TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND."

EXACTLY, BUT THE SCALE OF OUR MISSIONS--AND THE TEAM ITSELF--BECAME SO HUGE THAT WE GOT LOST IN IT.

WE WERE SO BUSY TAKING CARE OF THE WORLD, WE FORGOT TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

AND THE MISTAKES WE MADE--THE BETRAYALS, THE RESENTMENTS...

...THEY ALL CAME BACK TO HAUNT US WHEN THE SCARLET WITCH LOST CONTROL OF HER POWERS...

...AND MURDERED THE VISION AND HAWKEYE...

...AND YOUR FATHER.

BUT-- WHY?

TO PUNISH US FOR OUR SINS.

MY SINS.

THAT'S WHY I DISBANDED THE AVENGERS.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M BEGGING YOU-- ***PLEASE***--WHEN YOU GET HOME TONIGHT, TAKE OFF THE UNIFORM AND PUT IT AWAY.

I'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR DAD. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, TOO.

ISAIAH BRADLEY'S GRANDSON IS A *SUPER-SOLDIER?*

HOW IS THAT *POSSIBLE?*

BECAUSE *BEFORE* THE ARMY SAW FIT TO COOK UP THEIR *WHITE* CAPTAIN AMERICA, THEY TESTED THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM ON A PLATOON OF *BLACK* SOLDIERS.

ALL OF WHOM *DIED--*

EXCEPT YOUR *GRANDFATHER.* I KNOW THE STORY.

HE HAD A *DAUGHTER--* SARAH GAIL--

MY *MOTHER.*

--WHO WAS BORN *BEFORE* ISAIAH WAS GIVEN THE SERUM. SO HOW DID *YOU--?*

I GOT INTO A *FIGHT* A WHILE BACK.

LOST A *LOT* OF BLOOD...

AND *ISAIAH'S* BLOOD TYPE...

...MATCHED *MINE.*

I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU KIDS ARE *TRYING* TO DO, BUT--

YOU WANT TO SHUT US DOWN.

TELL ME, CAPTAIN...

...HOW EXACTLY DO YOU INTEND TO *DO* THAT?

UH-OH...

CASSIE--?

WHUMP

CASSIE'S FINE. SHE'S WITH *ME*.

YOU KIDS STAY PUT. IRON MAN AND I WILL--

KRAAAASH

WHERE IS HE?!?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?!

WHO IS THIS GUY?

THE GROWING MAN. HE FOUGHT THOR, THE AVENGERS, THE THUNDER-BOLTS--

GOD, YOU REALLY ARE FANBOYS, AREN'T YOU?

CASSIE--

I'VE GOT HER!

THANKS!

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T--

WHAM

THOK

--HIT HIM.

NOW YOU TELL ME.

THE MORE YOU HIT HIM, THE MORE HE--

--GROWS.

I DON'T KNOW, SIR. HIS GROWTH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN... STUNTED.

WELL, THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

I GUESS THEY DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THEY--

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

--USED TO...?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

OKAY, THIS COMPLETELY VIOLATES GROWING MAN CONTINUITY.

WHAT DO WE DO?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?

WE'RE FANBOYS, AREN'T WE? SO, WE COLLECT THEM ALL.

HOW?

YOU WANT MY ADVICE?

DO WE HAVE A CHOICE?

NOT IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE.

DON'T FIGHT THEM. SUBDUE THEM.

WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
I THINK THEY WANT THEIR MASTER.
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHO THE HELL IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
KANG!
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
KANG?
OH, MY GOD...THEY'RE STIMULOIDS. I INVENTED THEM.
ASGARDIAN, CAN YOU HOLD THEM BACK?
WHERE IS THE MASTER?
HOW? THEY'RE LIGHTNING-PROOF.
USE YOUR OTHER POWERS.
ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T KNOW IF I--
DO IT!

VMMMMM

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL...

WHAT'S HE DOING?

I THOUGHT HE HAD LIGHTNING POWERS...

I AM KANG. I AM YOUR MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

MASTER!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

SENDING A SIGNAL.

LETTING KANG KNOW THEY FOUND ME.

HE'S COMING...

"...WE HAVE TO PREPARE."

BEFORE WE START **TRAINING** YOU, WE NEED TO SEE WHAT YOU KIDS ARE CAPABLE OF **WITHOUT** YOUR GEAR.

THE **TRAINING FACILITY** IS RIGHT THROUGH THIS DOOR. WE'LL BE MONITORING YOU FROM THE **COMMAND DECK** UPSTAIRS.

GOOD LUCK.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS.

IF WE CAN STOP KANG, I CAN **STAY** HERE. AND I'LL NEVER HAVE TO BECOME KANG THE CONQUEROR.

I CAN BE A HERO. LIKE YOU.

THEN I GUESS WE'D BETTER START YOUR TRAINING.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK BEFORE THEY FIGURE IT OUT?

CLICK-CLICK

LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO CALL THEIR *PARENTS*.

ONE LAST QUESTION. I--

HEY, THE *DOOR'S* LOCKED.

CAP? IRON MAN?

CLICK-CLICK

GUYS...?

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS PLACE...?

I'VE GOT A NUMBER FOR ASGARDIAN'S PARENTS. BUT NOTHING ON HULKLING.

I'LL CALL ISAIAH AND FAITH ABOUT PATRIOT.

SO, HOW MUCH OF THE KIDS' STORY DO YOU BELIEVE?

WHAT, THAT IRON LAD IS REALLY YOUNG KANG FROM THE FUTURE?

HE'S GOT THE TECH TO BACK IT UP.

AND THE GROWING MEN DID SEEM TO RECOGNIZE HIM...

WHAT IF THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?

THEY'RE KIDS, CAP. EVEN IF KANG DID SHOW UP--

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, GENTLEMEN...

...SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

...AND THE DEVIL, HE SHALL APPEAR.

EMPIRE
ZONE
EMPIRE
ZONE
KL!Z8